

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

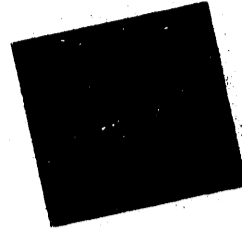
The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947



PALESTINE

FILE No. 84

pp 4609 - 5222

1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

CLOSED
UNTIL
1978

61844

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61844*

Following document(s) retained in the
Department of origin under Section 3 (4)
of the Public Records Act, 1958

E4609/84/31

1							
	2						
		1					
			3				
				4			
					5		
						2	
							6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

169

E

E 4617
30 MAY

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 4617/84/31

FROM

Constant and

No.

Constant

Dated

AB/GB.

Received in Registry

28, May 1947

30

S. S. 'KORA'

Quota content of telegram received from
Neill, re 'KORA' arrested for fifteen hundred
pounds, capital interest costs.

Give further particulars.

Last Paper.

4609

References.

(Minutes.)
We have sent a telegram to Geneva, instructing the
bureau-general what to do if the 'KORA' obtains bail.
Please see E 4373/84/31.

J 2/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

2/6

(Index)

5/8/48

Next Paper.

E 4644

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

STANT & CONSTANT.
SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.
TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.
TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

E 4617
30 MAY

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS. 4

24, ST. MARY AXE,

LONDON, E.C.3.

AB/GB.

28th May, 1947.

For attention of Mr. Cable.

Sir,

re s.s. "Kora"

We refer to our telephone conversation of this morning and quote as follows the contents of a cable which we have received from Avvocato Neill:

"KORA ARRESTED FOR FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS
CAPITAL INTEREST COSTS STOP YOUR LETTER
TWENTYFIRST RECEIVED POSITION NOTED BUT
OWNERS ENTITLED OBTAIN RELEASE VESSEL AGAINST
BAIL"

You will see that the "Kora" has now been re-arrested for the amount of the claim of Norton & Co. Lisbon.

We have also received instructions from Howard Tenens, Ltd. this morning to effect a new arrest of the "Kora" in connection with disbursements incurred at Antwerp amounting to £340.18.4. The claimant in that case is Agence Maritime De Keyser Thornton S.A. of 43, Longue Rue Neuve, Antwerp, and the necessary instructions have been sent to Avvocato Neill telegraphically to-day.

We will keep you advised.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
Eastern Department,
Whitehall,
S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371** / **51844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

4A

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *Fo*

Class *371*

Piece *61844*

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E4644/84/31

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

173

E

5

1947

PALESTINE

E 4744

4-JUN 1947

Registry Number

E4744/84/31

FROM

Constant and

No.

Constant

Dated

AB/KB

Received in Registry

2. June 1947

4 - -

SS 'KORA'

Enclosed copies of the letters received from Neill together with copy of acknowledgement drawn attention to final para of Neill letter of May 29.

Last Paper.

4720

(Minutes.)

4/6

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

4/6

(Index.)

4/6

Next Paper.

4765

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

CONSTANT & CONSTANT.
SOLICITORS.

HARVEY L. CONSTANT. R. A. PARKIN.
TELEGRAMS: TWOCONSTS, STOCK, LONDON.
TELEPHONES: AVENUE 1191.
(PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE)

Enter
E 4744

BALTIC EXCHANGE CHAMBERS, 6
24, ST. MARY AXE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

4 JUN 1947
CONFIDENTIAL

AB/KB.

2nd June, 1947.

Sir,

Re:- "KORA"

For attention of
MR. CABLE.

We enclose herewith, for your file, copies of two letters we have received from Avvocato Neill, together with copy of our acknowledgment.

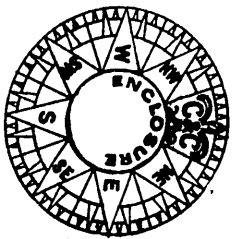
We do not think there is much we can add except to draw attention to the final paragraph in Mr. Neill's letter of the 29th May.

Mr. Cable will recollect that we discussed with him whether or not the claim for necessaries ranked as a Maritime Lien against a ship, according to Italian Law. The answer appears to be "yes", if the necessaries claim is not more than six months old, and this means, so we understand it, that in the event of the sale of this vessel, which is subject to an outstanding necessaries claim, subject to the time limitation, the claimant has the right to proceed against the vessel notwithstanding the change of ownership and provided of course that the arrest was made at an Italian port.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,
[Signature]

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
(Eastern Branch),
Whitehall,
S. W.1.



1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

- C O P Y -

DAVID S. NEILL.
AVVOCATO.

Viale Brigata,
Bisagno c-15,
GENOVA,
Italy.

28th May, 1947.

Messrs. Constant & Constant,
24, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.3.

Dear Sirs,

s. s. "KORA" - Your ref. AB/KB.

I confirm my yesterday's cable reading:

"KORA ARRESTED FOR FIFTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS CAPITAL INTEREST COSTS
STOP YOUR LETTER TWENTYFIRST RECEIVED POSITION NOTED BUT OWNERS
ENTITLED OBTAIN RELEASE VESSEL AGAINST BAIL."

On the 22nd inst. I was called up by the British Consulate General inquiring whether I had received instructions from London regarding this vessel. I informed them of your cable of the 20th inst. and was told that they had instructions from the Foreign Office to lend me such assistance as might be required. I was glad of this since the data I possessed were not sufficient to enable me to apply for an order of arrest. I thereupon asked the Consulate to write me an official letter, the terms whereof I drafted, with the particulars contained in your cable, and instructing me to do whatever under Italian law might be necessary to protect the interests of Messrs. Norton & Co.Ltd. With this letter in hand, in addition to your cable, I was able to obtain without delay the order of arrest, which was effected yesterday morning.

The total amount of your Clients' claim is £972.2.8; but the arrest is for £.1500. the difference standing as guarantee for interest and costs.

Your letter of the 21st inst, with documents referred to therein reached me yesterday morning. Concerning the confidential information you have given me I mentioned it to the British Consul, who know all about the matter, of course, and have requested me to keep the information private and confidential. I advised them, however, that under Italian law the owners would be entitled to obtain the release of the vessel by supplying bail in the amount for which she has been arrested, and that I had been informed that the owner Mr. Gasparinos is expected to arrive in Genoa tomorrow from Cairo.

/If

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

Reference:

FO

371

51844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

7A

If Mr. Gasparinatos should approach me on the question of furnishing bail, I propose to insist that it should be given in London. We could not legally refuse, of course, to release the vessel on bail being supplied.

I shall keep you duly advised of all further developments.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) D. Neill.

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

- C O P Y -

8

DAVID S. NEILL.
AVVOCATO.

Viala Brigata,
Bisagno 6, Genoa.
ITALY.

29th May, 1947.

Messrs. Constant & Constant
24 St. Mary Axe
London, E.C.3

Dear Sirs,

"KORA"

I have received your cable of the 27th reading:

"AIRMAILED YOU 21ST COMPLETE DOSSIER STOP CABLE IF ABLE
EFFECT ARREST ALSO WHETHER CLAIM RANKS AS MARITIME LIEN".

which crossed mine of that same date informing you that
the arrest had been effected.

I have received also your further cable of the 28th
reading:

"AIRMAILING VOUCHERS SUPPORTING FURTHER CLAIM DISBURSEMENTS
ANTWERP TOTALLY £340 APPROXIMATELY CLAIMANTS AGENCE MARITIME
DE KEYSER THORNTON S A 43 LONGUE RUE NEUVE ANTWERP STOP
PLEASE ARREST KORA PENDING PROVISION BAIL."

Regarding the arrest for this other claim, I propose
acting in such a manner as to effect it only when the first
arrest is about to be lifted when payment is made or bail supplied;
the object being to detail the vessel here as long as possible
in order to assist as best we can the British Authorities.

These claims for disbursements are in the nature, of course,
of maritime liens under Italian law, and rank in the 6th (last)
category ~~ix~~. The lien stands good for six months as from the
date on which the disbursements were made.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) D. NEILL

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

51844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

- C O P Y -

9

CONSTANT & CONSTANT.

24, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.3.

AIRMAIL.

AB/KB.

2nd June, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Re:- "KORA".

We are today in receipt of your airmail letters of the 28th and 29th ultimo, for both of which we are obliged.

We have taken careful note of all you write, and we, of course, fully appreciate that if adequate bail is tendered on behalf of the owners of the "Kora", that vessel would have to be released.

We note and entirely approve the method you have proposed for dealing with the second arrest on behalf of Agence Maritime de Keyser Thornton .

We are obliged to you for your promise to keep us advised.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) Constant & Constant.

David S. Neill, Esq.,
Avvocato,
Viale Brigata, Bisagno 6,
GENOA,
I t a l y.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371

51844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

174

E

1947

PALESTINE

E 4765
4 JUN 1947

10

Registry Number } E 4765/84/31
TELEGRAM FROM
No. Panama.
Dated 68
Received in Registry } 2 June 1947

SS ANAL
Refer 10th 68 (E 4391/84/31) Hales is
arriving today re local reactions but they
seem to have died down.

Last Paper.

4744

(Minutes.)

SA Dept. ^{sub. 6/6}

JB June 4

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ J.I. Dist
on E 4566/84/31
June 10

(Action completed.)

7 EMB/6

(Index)

5/12

Next Paper.

E 4773

32008 F.O.P.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1
4763

FROM PANAMA TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.
No. 68.

2nd June 1947.

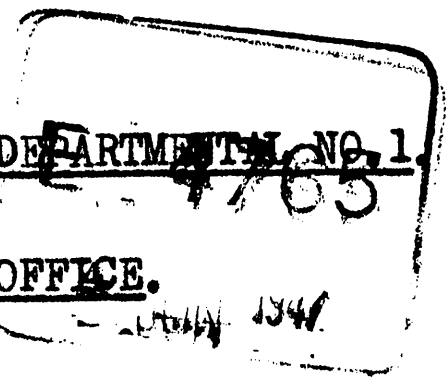
D. 3.55 p.m. 2nd June 1947.
R. 2.10 a.m. 3rd June 1947.

W:W:W:W:W

Your telegram No. 68.

Daily Mirror article.

I am writing today [gp. undec.] about local
reactions [gps. undec. ? but they] seem to have
died down.



E 11

E 4391 / 24/31

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: **FO 371 / 51844**

12

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61844*

Following document(s) retained in the
Department of origin under Section 3 (4)
of the Public Records Act, 1958

E4773/84/31

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

176

E

E 4775

13

1947

PALESTINE

5 JUN 1947

Registry Number

EA4775/84/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Act end

Dated

231

Received in Registry

26/11/47

29 May 1947
5 Jun

S. S. ANAK

Re: No. 1153 (EA263/84/31)
transmits copy of letter 232 (26/11/47)
of 22 May to Royal Hellenic, M. F. A.
re J.P. Anak

Last Paper.

4773

(Minutes.)

Copy Co. (Higham)
Brid. Evenshed
Cabinet Office
JBoneb

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham
P.O.

8/ Evenshed
Cabin off
✓ June 9

(Action completed)

J. C. Boneb

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

4778

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

Secret

No 231

(46/143/47)

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Athens presents his compliments to H.H.P.S. of S. for F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British.....Embassy.....
.....Athens
.....Greece

E 4775

5
29th May 1947

Reference to previous correspondence: E

F.O. tel: 1153 of May 26th

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to R.H.M.F.A. 22/5/47	Illegal Jewish Immigrants

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

BRITISH EMBASSY

ATHENS.

No. 232
46/143/47

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the Note No. 22834 of the 3rd April from His Excellency Monsieur Tsaldaris to Sir Clifford Norton, concerning the co-operation of all departments of the Royal Hellenic Government in endeavours to prohibit the flow of illegal immigrants into Palestine, have the honour to request the assistance of the Royal Hellenic Government in the following matter.

The s.s. "Anal" left Sete in the south of France in ballast early this month and embarked a cargo of 372 illegal Jewish immigrants secretly in France or Italy very shortly afterwards. The vessel put into Palermo and, while there, the master claimed that her destination was Alexandria. His Majesty's Government have now been informed by the Egyptian Government that no Egyptian visas for this party have been authorised. This information merely serves to corroborate the previous evidence that the ship was engaged in the illegal immigration traffic, which had already been confirmed by the fact of her secret embarkation of Jews.

The "Anal" left Palermo on May 19th to continue her voyage eastwards, and His Majesty's Embassy have now been informed that she is at present at sea between Sicily and Palestine, that she may run short of fuel, and that it is possible that she will put into a port in Crete or some other part of Greece. His Majesty's Embassy have therefore been instructed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to request the Royal Hellenic Government to be so good as to give immediate instructions to Greek port authorities that no fuel is to be supplied to the s.s. "Anal", if she puts in at a Greek port.

The known net tonnage of the s.s. "Anal" is 159 and it is clear that she can not carry this number of passengers without violating the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1930.

The facts at the disposal of His Majesty's Government as given above, have been brought to the attention of the Panamanian Consul General in London for the information of his Government who are being asked to have the ship detained at the next port of call. It is believed that the Government of Panama will then wish to cancel the Panamanian registration of the vessel.

The owners of the vessel are the Compania Anal Provencial S.A. of Panama, one of the directors of which is a certain Greek subject named Pilides. In view of the fact that the ship has been clearly shown to be carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine, and in view of the virtual certainty that her gross overloading is a breach of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, His Majesty's Embassy have been directed by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to bring all the above information to the notice of the Royal Hellenic Government and to urge the latter to take the strongest possible action against the Greek subject Pilides.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

22nd May 1947

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

177

E

1b

1947

PALESTINE

E 4778

5 JUN 1947

Registry Number E4778/84/31

FROM Chancery,

No. Ankara.
18/32/47

Dated 29 May

Received in Registry 5 June

Illegal Immigrant Ships

Refers F.O. tel. no. 381 (E3808/84/31).
Encloses letter from Passport Control Officer in Istanbul dated 23rd. May about s.s. "GALATA." There is no vessel of this name in Turkish Shipping Register but owner might have been authorised by some Turkish consulate abroad to fly Turkish flag in order to go to Turkey for official registration.

Last Paper.

4771-

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

s/ Higham, C.O.
M.I.5 (Mr. Robertson)
Final 14

(Action completed.)

J.P. M. 10/6

(Indexed)

[Signature] 5/8/48

Next Paper.

4779

(Minutes.)

I asked Mr. Fitzgerald (c.o.) to let me have the latest information from Palestine about this ship. He tells me that it has now been discovered that the "GALATA" was not under the Turkish, but the Italian flag.
I submit draft to Ankara Embassy accordingly.

Copy copy my 5 (usual names) (J.E. CABLE)

I think we can leave this 10/6

J.B. June 11

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

SECRET

British Embassy,
Ankara.

29th May 1947.

18/32/47

5 JUN 1947

E 3808/84/31

Dear Department,

Foreign Office telegram No.381 about the steamer "GALATA" which was engaged in the illegal immigration traffic into Palestine.

2. We sent a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as instructed and we sent a copy, as we normally do in such cases, to the Passport Control Officer in Istanbul. His reply to us --- may be of interest to you and we enclose a copy.

Yours ever,

ANKARA CHANCERY

Southern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON S.W.1.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY
SECRET

A/500

British Embassy,
ISTANBUL.

23rd May 1947.

Dear Samuel,

Your 18/18/47 of 14th May attaching a copy of your despatch No.163 to the Turkish M.F.A. about the s.s. "GALATA".

It may interest you to know that we consulted Lloyd's agent here about the identity of this vessel. His reply is that there is no vessel of this name in the Turkish Shipping Register.

On the other hand, Lloyd's agent says it is possible that the s.s. "GALATA" may recently have been purchased abroad by a Turkish shipowner and that the latter may have been authorised by some Turkish Consulate abroad to fly the Turkish flag, and even to show Istanbul as the port of registry, in order to make a single voyage to Turkey for purposes of official registration. This appears to be normal practice, though in this instance as in many others affecting ships of other nationalities, the vessel was in all probability deviated to Palestine.

We know of at least one Turkish shipowner, a certain Naim Molvan, who is implicated with Stefano D'Andria (our A/482 of 18th April 1947 refers) in organising the shipment of illegal Jewish immigrants from Mediterranean ports to Palestine. Naim Molvan last left Istanbul for Marseilles on 10th February 1946 and there is no indication in our records that he has since returned to Turkey. He may well have had a hand in despatching the s.s. "GALATA" to Palestine.

Yours ever,
(sd) CHRIS JOWETT

A.C.I. Samuel, Esq.,
British Embassy,
ANKARA.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

72

178

E

19.

E 4779

1947

PALESTINE

5 JUN 1947

Registry Number

E 4779/84/31

FROM

Chancery
Washington

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

5/12/47

27 May 1947

5 June

Illegal Immigration, Publicity
Refer #1061 5089 (E4108/84/31) states head of Transit Agency told Board that they were well aware of 14000 efforts of secret co-operation of European Govt in prevention of their traffic. Agency was strongly opposed to Ben Mecht type of involvement but will still oppose in all the way re illegal immigration.

Last Paper.

4778

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

of. digshaw, C.O.
~~Robertson~~
Mr. T. A. Robertson.
12 June 1947

(Action completed.)

GJM 21/6

(Index.)

[Handwritten initials]

Next Paper.

4782

(Minutes.)

Copy of [unclear] [unclear]

usual names

Mr. Reunis, Inf - Policy Dept 4/20/46

NA Dept [unclear]

Mr. Beely on return 11/5/46

Mr. S. Deins June 6

Mr. Freeman has since made an announcement

[Handwritten initials]

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

1947th May 1947

5

E 20

SECRET

Ref: G124/ /47

Dear Department,

Please refer to para 6 of your telegram No.5089 of 22nd May concerning publicity for the illegal immigration traffic.

The head of the Jewish Agency here, Eliahu Epstein, told Bromley recently that they were well aware of the efforts H.M.G. are making to secure the co-operation of European governments in the prevention of this traffic, "since nothing is secret in Europe". He said that the Agency was strongly opposed to the type of incitement contained in Ben Hecht's letter to the terrorists but that they would oppose us all the way on illegal immigration.

He indicated that the Bergson group was making strong efforts to obtain Congressional support to prevent an official U.S. announcement condemning incitement to murder, but that this move would not obtain general Zionist support. Bromley gathered however that if it were proposed to enlarge the condemnation to include aid for illegal immigration, Zionist opinion might be mobilised against this. Although we do not yet know whether the Administration is prepared to help us, we foresee that they will think twice before going so far as we would wish in condemning all the types of activity of which we have been complaining so long.

We would prefer that this information should

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

/be

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

be treated as confidential and not be made use of, since Epstein has throughout been friendly and ready to talk frankly about Zionist views - and often intentions. We have fairly frequent contact with him and we get the impression that he is one of those who, while strongly pro-Zionist, genuinely regrets the present state of relations between the British and the Jews. We would therefore prefer that it should not be known that he does at times give us confidentially and informally items of information such as the above.

We are sending a copy of this letter fo
Jerusalem.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Ja

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICEGroup *F0*Class *371*Pièce *61844*

Following document(s) retained in the
Department of origin under Section 3 (4)
of the Public Records Act, 1958

E4782/84/31
E4821
E4841

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

142

1947

E

E 4847

23

PALESTINE

6 JUN 1947

Registry Number } E 4847/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

89
Marseille
77
5 June
6 -

S.S. "Northlands"
Refer F.O. 61 (E 4847/84/31) States
Northlands sailed from Port de Bouc for
Genoa in Bollard June 3.

Last Paper.
4841 (4448)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ 9.9 Dist
in E 4566/84/31
June 10

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

26/6

5/1/48

Next Paper.

(4890)

4861

This has actually ^(Minutes.) been reported to Genoa.

Better report to Rome too

Done J.

AB June 7

J.P.
(E 4847)
7/6

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

E 4847

6 JUN 1947

24

FROM MARSEILLES TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's Consul General D. 6.39.p.m. 5th June 1947
No: 77

5th June 1947

R. 2.20.a.m. 6th June 1947

Repeated to Paris

X:X:X:

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No: 61.

Secret.

Jewish Immigration.

Northlands sailed from Port de Bouc for Genoa
in ballast at 6 p.m. June 5rd.

Foreign Office please repeat to Panama and
Genoa.

[Repeated to Panama].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]



1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

v83

E

E 4861

7 JUN

25

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E4861/84/31

FROM

E. A. Morales

No.

Panamanian

Dated

Embassy

Received in Registry

C.-988 EAM
3 June 1947

SS 'ANAL'
Re: pers 7.0 letter (E4201/84/31) re 'Anal' steels from investigation, has come to conclusion that Mr. Filides, who formed shipping company owning the steamer, should bear the blame.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

4847

References.

I told the Greek Embassy about the Panamanian official view on Mr. Filides

J. Bonney

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

JEM 2/6

(Index.)

JEM 2/6

Next Paper.

E4876

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844



Consulado General de la República de Panamá.

enter K
26

No. C-988
EAM

E 4861

Londres, 3rd June 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

7 JUN
Dear Mr. Beth

Confirming our telephone conversation of this morning when you were good enough to inform me that the S.S. "ANAL" was intercepted in Palestinian waters and will be confiscated by H.M. Government, I have now the pleasure to refer to your communication dated the 19th May.

From the investigation which I have carried out, I have come to the conclusion that Mr. Pilides, who formed the Panamanian shipping Company owning the steamer, "Compañía Anal Provincial S.A." should bear the blame.

The above mentioned company was constituted quite legally through the good offices of a well known firm of solicitors, Messrs. Constant & Constant, 24, St. Mary Axe, London E.C.3- The registration of the vessel was also effected through them but the solicitors acted only as go-betweens, representing their clients Mr. Pilides. They were - as was this Consulate General- the victims of the bad faith of Mr. Pilides.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Pilides purchased this vessel with the intention of disposing of it in the way he has done. You will recall your suspicions about this vessel earlier this year. I had an interview with Mr. Pilides who was duly warned not to make any transaction with doubtful people. Mr. Pilides informed me then that the vessel had been damaged and was costing him a lot of money and that if he received a good offer for it he would dispose of it, whatever the issue. I warned him then that he would have to bear the consequences.

As far as this office is concerned Mr. Pilides is from now on, persona non grata, and never again will he place another vessel under the Panamanian flag. I sincerely regret that we were unable to stop the vessel in time. I wish to thank you, on behalf of my Government your help in preventing further disagreeable news in the press in connection with such incidents. Or if they have to be published, the co-operation of the Government through this Consulate should be also published.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

26A

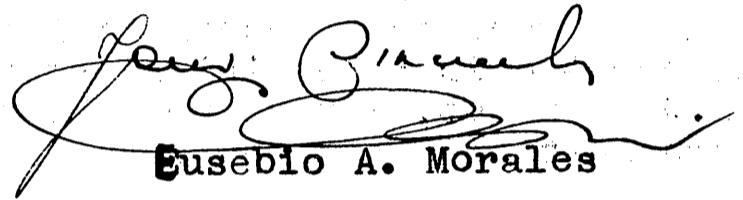
I am conveying to the Government what you have told me about the s.s. NORTH LANDS". I have since obtained confirmation that this vessel is definitely not under the Panamanian Flag.

I would also like to confirm what I said with reference to Mr. Fokias of Cardiff. This gentleman and his brother have now severed all connections with the "Compañia Maritima Geojunior, S.A.", also of Panama, and are now the sole owners of the steamers "Lowestoft" and "Shoreham".-I am following their activities very closely but I am afraid that I cannot act only on suspicions. I personally believe that the Fokias Brothers are in the clear. I cannot say the same about the Directors which now have control of the "Compañia Maritima Geojunior"; however, there again I have not sufficient evidence to refuse a proper application.

RECEIVED IN C.B.

6 JUN 1947

SENT TO DEPT.


Eusebio A. Morales

J.G.S.Beith, Esq.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

184

E

E 4876 27
9 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E4876/84/31.
FROM O. Wilson
No. Algiers
Dated 64
Received in Registry } 30 May 1947
9 June

S.S. 'UKUA'
Refer Algiers despatch 23 (E1634/84/31)
States in addition to visit to Prefect of
Algiers re 'UKUA' also made call requesting
Governor General of Algeria to prevent
do illegal embarkation of clandestine
immigrants to Palestine from Algerian ports
Further comments.

Last Paper.
4861

References.

(Minutes.)
copy: G.O. - (usual names) J. B. ...
M.H. 5
Cap. H.H.)
Wentworth Dept. (J.E. CABLE) 9/6

Please bank JB Tuney

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ digram. B.O.
~~Report~~
~~Sheet 415.~~
Bunched. Cab off
✓ June 13
opt on N° 53
Board Gen
Algiers
✓ June 11

I submit draft accordingly
J.B. ... (J.E. CABLE) 10/6

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

J.C. ... 7/6
5/10/48

Next Paper.

4890

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

SECRET

E 4876

British Consulate General,

ALGIERS.

30th May 1947.

No: 64.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No: 23 of 14th February regarding the call of the Honduranian Steamship "ULUA" at Algiers on 8th February, I have the honour to report that, in addition to the visit which I made to the Prefect of Algiers about this matter, I took an early opportunity of requesting the Governor General of Algeria to prevent the illegal embarkation of clandestine immigrants to Palestine from Algerian ports.

2. From information received from H.M. Consul General, Tunis, on 26th April I wrote to the Sécurité Générale stating that it had been reported that a group of over one hundred Jews were supposed to have left Tunisia for Algeria in hopes of eventually reaching Palestine and repeated the request already made that precautions be taken to stop people embarking who had not their papers in order, particularly when it was a case of ships which were not on a regular passenger run. At the same time I called upon them accompanied by Mr. Vice Consul Peel, the head of Visa Section, and discussed the position generally. We informed them that it was known that there was a large Jewish recreation camp near Tenes but that, while this camp appeared to be run along proper lines, it might have some connection with collecting Jews there to get them away to Palestine as opportunity offered. We therefore asked for a very special watch to be kept upon that particular part of the coast.

3. Shortly after the above visit I received a letter from the Governor General of Algeria in which he stated that he had issued instructions to all authorities concerned to apply the regulations strictly and that any attempted departure from Algeria would be prevented as regards persons whose papers were not in order or as regards attempts at clandestine emigration.

4. I have recently had several very friendly conversations with the Governor General in which he confirmed the above points and there is no doubt that the French authorities are now wide awake to the position and are co-operating to the best of their abilities as the following information obtained from a highly reliable source will show.

5. A vessel, name unknown and flying no flag, cruised off the port of Tenes, which lies 150 miles to the west of Algiers, during daylight on 10th May. During the evening she proceeded inshore and anchored about one cable's length off the coast in the Bay of Taramia, which is near the Jewish Holiday Camp bearing the name: "Accueil et Santé par le Camping" ("Welcome and Health through Camping") - a quite unexpected version of the Nazi "Strength through Joy" idea. The local coast-guard had watched this ship's movements with suspicion in view of the instructions received from the Government General and during the hours of darkness two trucks and a motor-car containing 79 Jews from the holiday camp were stopped by gendarmes on their way making towards the Bay of Taramia. Their occupants were taken to Tenes for interrogation, but released after a sufficient delay. The ship left during the night at about 2.00 a.m. without having been able to embark anyone.

6. This may have been the same ship as that stated to be the "Anna Andrée" flying the Panamanian flag, which, however, cannot be traced from Lloyds Register, and sighted on 12th May off Port Gueydon, which lies about 100 miles east of Algiers. It is stated that she

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,

etc., etc., etc.,

Foreign Office, LONDON, S.W. 1.

/ had

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

67

had on board 130 persons of various nationalities and that the name of the Captain of the ship was Captain Nicolatoff. On the following day at dawn she left for Dellys, further west, where she remained at anchor for about one hour, leaving that port eventually at 19.30 hours in the evening. This ship was not boarded and examined although the French Navy were preparing to send a motor-launch from the nearby port of Bougie to try and find out what she was up to.

7. In addition to the above-mentioned camp it is said that the "Ferme Douieb", a farm near Blida, about 25 miles inland to the west of Algiers, is serving as a collecting centre for Jews mostly from Morocco who wish to get away to Palestine. I am, however, informed by the Governor General himself as well as from other sources that in view of what has happened as regards their failure to get away from Algeria, feeling that they are being watched, and that the Algerian authorities will do their best to frustrate any future attempts, already quite a number of Jews has returned to Morocco and also to Tunisia, greatly disappointed that the promises of the organisers of these camps to get them away to Palestine within any reasonable period appear to be unrealisable.

8. The friendly attitude of Mr. Yves Chataigneau, the Governor General, and of the Algerian authorities under his orders appears to be most helpful and satisfactory as regards preventing clandestine emigration to Palestine and I have their assurance that they will keep me fully informed as to any future developments.

9. A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and to His Majesty's Consul General at Rabat and Tunis.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

David Hillson

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 4876/84/31

J.E.C.

Top-Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. Despatch
no. 53

To

H.H. Consul-General
ALGIERS

OUT FILE

700

Foreign Office S.W.1.

11 June 1947

30

Sir, I ~~shall be grateful~~ ^{have received} if you will refer to your despatch no. 64 of 30th May, in which you reported the action ~~taken~~ ^{you had} by you to prevent the departure from Algeria of would be illegal immigrants to Palestine.

2. your despatch has been read with ~~considerable~~ interest and your energetic and successful ~~effective~~ activities have been ~~noted~~ with appreciation.

in this dept. and I am grateful for ~~the~~ ^{your} prompt and effective action in this matter

JB June 10

I am, etc.

(Sgd) C.W. Baxter.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

OUT FILE 11th June, 1947.

31

No. 53.
(E 4876/84/31)

SECRET
Sir,

I have received your despatch No. 64 of 30th May, in which you reported the action you had taken to prevent the departure from Algeria of would be illegal immigrants to Palestine.

2. Your despatch has been read with interest in this department and I am grateful for your prompt and effective action in this matter.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

(Sgd.) C.W. Baxter

R. Darrell Wilson, Esq.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Algiers.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

185-

1947

E

E 4890

PALESTINE

9 JUN

32

Registry Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

} E 4890/84/31
No. *Am. H. Charles*
Dated *Rome*
Received in Registry } 1267
7 June 1947

SS. Northlands

Refer 7.11 tel 1097 (E 4448/84/31) plane received word that ship sailed from Port x a Bore June 3 on ballast bound for Genoa. was reported Port de Bore flying Panama flag.

Last Paper.

4876

References.

E 4847/84/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

J. J. Dept
on E 4566/84/31
Serial 10

(Action completed.)

(Index)

26/6

5/24/48

Next Paper.

E 4917

(Minutes.)

M.I. 5 have now received confirmation from Floyd that "Northlands" was flying Panamanian flag on arrival at Port de Bore.

They have asked Floyd to find out her present registry, but have not yet received a reply.

J. J. Dept
(S. E. Cable)
7/6

In a trial this ship has got away. I don't think she will call at another port. So the point about Swedish registry is not of great importance. Col. Robertson has promised to clear it up

By 12

June 26

J. J. Dept

Tel. sent to Bordeaux asking

her to check her registry

J. J. Dept

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

E
33

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N. Charles
No. 1267

D.12.01 p.m. 7th June, 1947.

R. 3.20 p.m. 7th June, 1947.

7th June, 1947.

Repeated to Paris

Batch from 66

111

E

E 4800

4448/14/71

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 1097. Jewish Illegal Immigrations.

My experts have just received word that ship Northasis sailed from Port Du Bouc on June 3rd in ballast bound ostensibly for Genoa. She was to-day reported at Port Du Bouc to be flying the Panama flag.

2. I have warned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that this ship is probably in Italian waters and have given them the information in your telegram to me No. 1097. urging that if the ship is found to be flying false Panama colours she should immediately be arrested.

3. Meanwhile the ship may of course appear under Swedish colours and I should be glad to learn urgently whether you have approached or are approaching the Swedish Government with a view to having her detained for verification (see paragraph 5 of my telegram No. 1173).

Please repeat to Paris as my telegram No. 111.

[Repeated to Paris]

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

JUN 1947

186

E

E 4917

34

1947

PALESTINE

9 JUN

Registry Number

E 4917/84/31

FROM

atley blank

No.

Paris

Dated

72/290/47

Received in Registry

to Mr. Peck

H. Reed

9

Legal Immigration, Publicity.
Refer Washington 21 2943 (E 4152/84/51)
border whether any action has been taken.
State could do no harm in France, though
cannot expect any startling results.
Have further comments.

Last Paper.

4890

(Minutes.)

References.

Mr Rennie first

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Mr Boulton
Paris

June 18

Copy (copy)
in letter, to Mr.
in Ward, Rome.

June 18

(Action completed)

G.P. 1/9

(Index)

5/1/47

Next Paper.

E 4930

We could draw attention
to our first circular and any
later guidance tels. I agree
with the last para. This
letter and have always advocated
giving no publicity whatever to
our representations to and
negotiations with foreign govts.
What we want to do is to
show up the sleamy side of
the traffic

H. Reed
June 10

This, I hope, will be the line of all the
publicity we are encouraging. It will be
much easier both for us and posts abroad
once suitable material has started to appear

Wt 24772/717 17855 10/38 F.O.I.
in the British (and American) Press.
Now see E 6330

H. Reed
11/6

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

TOP SECRET

E 4917

British Embassy,

72/290/47

Paris.

9 JUN

4th June, 1947.

Dear John,

35

I wonder whether any decision was taken on Washington telegram No.2943 of 19th May suggesting publicity on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

In this country it could do no harm, though we cannot expect any very startling results. It is worth trying but the only way to get any such publicity in France will be if agency messages are received reporting publicity in the United Kingdom. It would of course be essential for the publicity to be factual but interesting enough for correspondents to want to telegraph it.

It would be desirable (a) to concentrate on information showing up the inhuman rôle played by the organisers of this traffic, and (b) not to take the initiative in launching a publicity campaign from this Embassy at a moment when we are negotiating on this subject with the French Government. If, however, you authorise publicity in the United Kingdom we could do useful work here by answering questions, by discreetly briefing British correspondents and by feeding background information to provincial press officers. For this purpose we should need hard facts and if possible some exclusive information.

We should of course have to avoid giving away the actual measures being taken by the French authorities to help us.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Denis Allen at Washington and Jack Ward at Rome.

J.G.S. Beith Esq.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

Yours ever,
Ashley Clarke

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Registry
No. E 4917/83/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

M J. G. S. B.
Draft
Mr. Coulson,
British Embassy,
Paris.

from
Mr. J. G. S. Beith

Copy to:
W.D.
Mr. Allen,
Washington.
J.G.
Mr. Ward, Rome.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

+3

OUT FILE

16

18 June, 1947. 36

TOP SECRET

As I gather Ashley Clarke is on leave,
I write to you in reply to his letter
No. 72/290/47 of June 4th, about publicity
on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

We have been giving a good deal of
consideration to this whole question and
you will have seen our circular telegram
of May 22nd, ~~which was~~ addressed to you
as Foreign Office telegram No. 1164 Saving,
~~and~~ which was designed to prepare the
ground for the despatch of further material
to posts abroad. The preparation of this
material is being co-ordinated by our
Information Policy Department, with the
help of the various Government Departments
represented on the Official Committee on
Illegal Immigration to Palestine. The
News Department are also placing what
material they can with journalists here.
As Ashley suggested, we want to concentrate
on the seamy side of the traffic, the
substantial profits made by ship-owners and
agents out of the distress of Jewish
refugees and the ruthless exploitation of
these people for political purposes. We
have made it clear to all concerned that
we should not publicise our representations
to foreign Governments, since the effect
of such publicity would be what the South
Americans ~~as~~ eloquently describe as

"contra/

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

36A

"contra/producente".

Meanwhile, We have not ^{for the present} been able to ^{to do so} send out much material. ^{It will be much easier when suitable} ~~yet.~~ We want first ^{material has begun to appear} ~~to place suitable material~~ in the British (and American) press, which ~~can then be~~ ~~quoted.~~

I am sending a copy of this letter to Denis Allen at Washington and to Jack Ward in Rome.

JB June 16

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

37

OUT FILE

(E 4917/83/31)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET.

18th June, 1947.

Dear John

As I gather Ashley Clarke is on leave, I write to you in reply to his letter No.72/290/47 of 4th June, about publicity on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

We have been giving a good deal of consideration to this whole question and you will have seen our circular telegram of 22nd May, addressed to you as Foreign Office telegram No.1164 Saving, which was designed to prepare the ground for the despatch of further material to posts abroad. The preparation of this material is being co-ordinated by our Information Policy Department, with the help of the various Government Departments represented on the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration to Palestine. The News Department are also placing what material they can with journalists here. As Ashley suggested, we want to concentrate on the seamy side of the traffic, the substantial profits made by ship-owners and agents out of the distress of Jewish refugees and the ruthless exploitation of these people for political purposes. We have made it clear to all concerned that we should not publicise our representations to foreign Governments, since the effect of such publicity would be what the South Americans eloquently describe as "contra producente".

We have not for the present been able to send out much material. It will be much easier to do so when suitable material has begun to appear in the British (and United States) press.

I am sending copies of this letter to Denis Allen at Washington and to Jack Ward in Rome.

Yours ever

(sgd)

(J.G.S.Beith)

J.E.Coulson, Esq., C.M.G.,

Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

(E 4917/83/31)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET.

18th June, 1947.

Dear John

As I gather Ashley Clarke is on leave, I write to you in reply to his letter No.72/290/47 of 4th June, about publicity on the subject of Jewish illegal immigration.

We have been giving a good deal of consideration to this whole question and you will have seen our circular telegram of 22nd May, addressed to you as Foreign Office telegram No.1164 Saving, which was designed to prepare the ground for the despatch of further material to posts abroad. The preparation of this material is being co-ordinated by our Information Policy Department, with the help of the various Government Departments represented on the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration to Palestine. The News Department are also placing what material they can with journalists here. As Ashley suggested, we want to concentrate on the seamy side of the traffic, the substantial profits made by ship-owners and agents out of the distress of Jewish refugees and the ruthless exploitation of these people for political purposes. We have made it clear to all concerned that we should not publicise our representations to foreign Governments, since the effect of such publicity would be what the South Americans eloquently describe as "contra producente".

We have not for the present been able to send out much material. It will be much easier to do so when suitable material has begun to appear in the British (and United States) press.

I am sending copies of this letter to Denis Allen at Washington and to Jack Ward in Rome.

Yours ever

(sgd) (J.G.S.Beith)

J.E.Coulson, Esq., C.M.G.,

Paris.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

188

E

E 4955
11 JUN 39

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number E4955/84/31
FROM Howard
No. Kenes Hef
Dated OPS/AR/N.
Received in Registry 9. June 1947
" - -

S.S. KORA

Transmit extract from letter to N.H. Foster from Mr. Elliot Norton. State that all solutions agencies etc. should be paid by £/v. as per agreement with Rockefeller.

Last Paper.
4970

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

apt. Chancery.
Lisbon
June 23 (enc)
W. Graham
all Transport
(6 copies)
June 23

(Action completed)

(Initials)

W. Graham 23/6
9/4/48

Next Paper.

E 4991

(Minutes.)

Please see minute in E 3982. Mr. Rockefeller denies having given such an assurance.

I think we ought to ask Lisbon if anyone in the Embassy made any promise of this nature and, if nobody did, to suggest that they should find out from Norton & Co. how the misunderstanding arose.

Norton and Co. have not specifically mentioned this point before, though their original telegram of instructions to Howard Tenens (in E 4214) contains the somewhat ambiguous phrase: "without incurring further expenses to us."

I submit draft to Lisbon Chancery.

Hubert
(C.S. E-CABLE)

We could not help over finance except by getting Treasury sanction - perhaps through the IIP Ctee.

My. Transport had better be kept informed.
Finance Dept.
11/6
11/6

JD June 12

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

TELEPHONE AVENUE 1901 (7 LINES)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

{ INLAND: HOWTENAX, ALD, LONDON
FOREIGN: HOWTENAX, LONDON

CODES:

{ SCOTT'S
A.B.C. 6TH EDITION
BOE
NEW BOE

DIRECTORS
NORMAN H. FOSTER
R. W. MCFARLANE
B. M. MCGOWAN
D. P. SINNOTT

HOWARD TENENS, LIMITED.

SHIP BROKERS

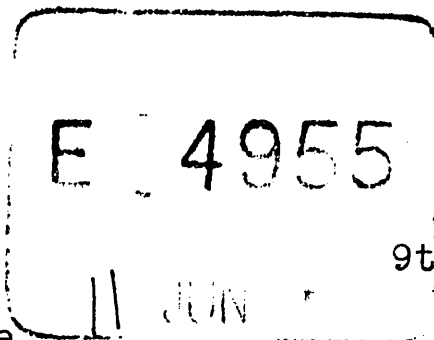
BEVIS MARKS HOUSE,

BEVIS MARKS,

LONDON, E.C.3.

9th June 1947.

DPS/AR/N



The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Attention Mr. Cable.

Sir,

Confirming our telephone conversations of last week, in particular that of Saturday morning, we give you hereunder an extract of a private letter from Mr. Elliot Norton of Norton & Co. Ltd., Lisbon, to our Mr. N.H. Foster:-

"There is one point I would like to stress and I mentioned
"it in my telegram and also in my private and confidential
"letter to you, both of which must have reached you through
"the F.O. When I agreed with Mockford to do what we are doing
"on behalf of the F.O., it was agreed that all Solicitors'
"expenses, etc. would be for account of H.M.G. and therefore
"I think that all expenses incurred in this matter should cer-
"tainly be paid to us by the F.O. You will no doubt be able to
"take this matter up with the gentleman who has been in contact
"with you and as Mockford is in England at present you can get
"this confirmed by him".

We gathered from our telephone conversations that you are unable to find any record of the agreement mentioned above, but that you will be communicating with the Embassy in Lisbon and we await your news .

Yours faithfully,
For HOWARD TENENS, LIMITED.,

Director.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Registry
No. E4955/84/31

XXXXXX
Secret.
XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

Draft.

The Chancery,
H.M. Embassy,
Lisbon.

From:
Eastern Dept.

E3897

About Solicitors' expenses
Foreign Dept.
M. H. H. H.
D. June 12

Copy cover. to
Mr W. Graham,
M. of Transport

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

OUT FILE

11 June 41

E4214

SECRET

Dear Chancery,

Will you please refer to
our telegram No. 309 of 21st May ^{to Genoa} about
the ^{Jawish} illegal immigrant ship "Kora".

2. You will remember that, in
your telegram No. 331, you informed us that
the Kora had left Lisbon owing approximately
& £1,000 to Norton/Co. Ltd. of Lisbon, and
suggested that we should make use of their
good offices to put an arrest on her for this
amount. As you know, we adopted this
suggestion, which proved to be most useful,
and the Kora is still detained at Genoa.

3. We have now received a letter
from Messrs. Howard Tenens dated the 9th
June, of which we enclose a copy, We got
in touch with Mockford about this, and he
states that he never gave any such assurance
to Messrs. Norton & Co. We ^{sh} would be
grateful if you ^w could ascertain from Messrs.
Norton & Co. how this misunderstanding has
arisen. This is obviously rather a delicate
question since, although we do not wish in
any way to discourage Messrs. Norton & Co.,
we have no authority to sanction such
expenditure. Messrs. Howard Tenens and
their London solicitors, Messrs. Constant &
Constant, have proved most energetic and
their assistance has been exceedingly
helpful. We are anxious, therefore, to clear
up this misunderstanding as soon as possible.

4/

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

4. It would be interesting to know how far Messrs. Norton & Co. have incurred additional expense solely on our account. Would they not, in any case, have taken proceedings for recovery of the debts owed to them?

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

[Handwritten signature]
16/6

41A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

19th June, 1947.

42

(E 4955/84/31)

SECRET

Dear Chancery,

Will you please refer to our telegram No. 309 of 21st May to Genoa about the Jewish illegal immigrant ship "Kora".

2. You will remember that, in your telegram No. 331, you informed us that the Kora had left Lisbon owing approximately £1,000 to Norton and Company Limited of Lisbon, and suggested that we should make use of their good offices to put an arrest on her for this amount. As you know, we adopted this suggestion, which proved to be most useful, and the Kora is still detained at Genoa.

3. We have now received a letter from Messrs. Howard Tenens dated the 9th June, of which we enclose a copy, about solicitors' expenses. We got in touch with Mockford about this, and he states that he never gave any such assurance to Norton and Company Limited. We should be grateful if you would ascertain from Norton and Company Limited how this misunderstanding has arisen. This is obviously rather a delicate question since, although we do not wish in any way to discourage Norton and Company Limited we have no authority to sanction such expenditure. Messrs. Howard Tenens and their London solicitors, Messrs. Constant and Constant, have proved most energetic and their assistance has been exceedingly helpful. We are anxious, therefore, to clear up this misunderstanding as soon as possible.

4. It would be interesting to know how far Norton and Company Limited have incurred additional expense solely on our account. Would they not, in any case, have taken proceedings for recovery of the debts owed to them?

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Lisbon.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

E

E 4991
11 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

43

Registry Number

E 4991/84/31

FROM

Costa Rican Consulate

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

9 June 1947
11

IS "COLONY TRADER"

Enclosed copy of protest received from
captain of SS "Colony Trader" sailing
under Costa Rican flag, and detained
at Gibraltar. Urges for early reply
to allegations.

Last Paper.

4955

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft. ~~attach~~ diploma
P.O. (enc)

from Mr. Birch
June 16

Dft. Costa Rican
Consul Gen.
June 20

(Action completed)

YLM/21/6

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 5068

(Minutes.)

(and no 19 (E 4413))

In our telegram no. 17 to San Jose (E 4376)
we asked the Costa Rican Govt. to cancel
the registration of the "Colony Trader". No reply
has yet been received from the Costa Rican
Govt. I suggest that we might send a
reminder to San Jose, informing them of
this letter and, as an interim reply to the
Consul, tell him that we are awaiting a
reply from his Govt. to our request for
cancellation of this ship's Costa Rican
registration. H.S. tell me she is still Costa Rican.

I submit draft telegram to San Jose
accordingly, together with interim reply to
Costa Rican Consul (General?) in London.
Please ackge. to CA, Consulate. Gen. [Signature]
(S. G. CABLE)
12/6

The point is that we have introduced
legislation in Gibraltar to detain
suspect ships and the "Colony
Trader" is being held under these
powers. I don't think we had
better go into the back history
of

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

- Your representations to the Costa Rican Govt. about the withdrawal of registration. I think what is required is a letter to CG asking what reply they think we should return to the Committee. And in what terms they think we should refer to the Gibraltar legislation. They may want to consult the Governor.

J.S. Davis
 June 12

Draft submitted *[Signature]*
 (3/12/66)

[Signature]
 15/6

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
 Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

CONSULADO GENERAL DE COSTA RICA
EN LONDRES.

TELEPHONE: CLERKENWELL 5541-2
PRINCES HOUSE, 95, GRESHAM STREET,
LONDON, E.C.2

E 4991
E
44
11 JUN
9th June 1947

The Under Secretary of State
Foreign Office
Whitehall. S.W.

Sir:

I take the liberty of enclosing Copy of a Protest which I have received from the Captain of the ss "Colony Trader" sailing under the Costa Rican Flag, which vessel has been detained at Gibraltar.

I shall be glad to have your reply to these allegations so that I may keep my Government fully informed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Consul,
J. J. J.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: -

FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

13

C O P Y

45

s. s. "COLONY TRADER"
GIBRALTAR,

27th May, 1947.

His Excellency,
The Ambassador for Costa Rica,
London.

Your Excellency,

I beg to inform you that my steamer, the Costa Rican s. s. "COLONY TRADER", arrived at Gibraltar on the morning of the 19th instant for bunker coal but this was refused by the Coal Controller on instructions from London.

On the night of the 23rd instant a number of soldiers were put on board by the Authorities and steamer was placed under detention on suspicion that she will be used on illegal traffic with Palestine.

I hereby strongly protest for this detention as we are at present on a lawful voyage from Jacksonville(U.S.A) via Bermuda and Madeira with a cargo of scrap tyres, loaded at the first named port, for Genoa, which cargo is properly documented, and I would be much obliged if you will kindly convey my protest to the proper Authorities.

I would further like to bring to your notice that I have no knowledge whatsoever that steamer will be used for any illegal traffic, and to prove this statement and that I am in no way involved in any illegal traffic, I could easily have avoided calling at Gibraltar for bunkers by replenishing at Madeira sufficient to take steamer to Genoa where she is bound.

I have the honour to be, Excellency,
Your obedient Servant,

(signed)

Master s. s. "COLONY TRADER"

P.S. For your information I have written a letter on the above strain to the Consul for Costa Rica at Gibraltar.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	2	1

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

16

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/197 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. E 4991/84/31

J.E.C.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

SAN JOSE

Telegram.

No.

(Date)

Repeat to:—

~~En Clair.~~

Code.

Cypher.

Distribution:—

Departmental NO. 1

Copies to:—

I. I. P.

SUSPEND

F. O.,

40

194 .

Despatched

M.

My telegram NO. 17 of 21st May:
illegal immigrant ship "COLONY TRADER"
Costa Rican Consul in
London has now forwarded a
~~copy~~ a protest from the
master of the "COLONY TRADER"
against the measures taken
to detain this ship at GIBRALTAR.
Master has also approached Costa
Rican Consul at Gibraltar.
• 2. Costa Rican Consul
in London is being informed
that a reply is still awaited
to our request to Costa Rican
Govt. for cancellation of
"COLONY TRADER's" registration.
/ 3.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:—
FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

3. you should ^{now ask} ~~press~~ Costa Rican ~~the~~ Govt. for an early reply, as ship has not, after all, been transferred to Honduran registry.

468

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO 371

61844

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry

No. E 4991/84/31

J.F.C.

Top Secret.

Secret.

Confidential.

Restricted.

Open.

Draft.

To

Costa Rican
Panamanian Consul-General
London

SUSPEND

Foreign Office S.W.1.
June 1947

47

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 9th June enclosing a copy of a protest from the master of the S.S. "Solway Trader" against the detention of this vessel at Gibraltar.

H.M. Minister in San Jose has been instructed to request the Government of Costa Rica to withdraw their registration from this vessel, on the grounds of her complicity in the Jewish illegal immigration traffic to Palestine.

I propose, therefore, to await the answer of the Government of Costa Rica, before

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			
				2	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

replying in detail to
your letter

47A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Registry
No. E 4991/84/31
J.E.C.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

To

W.A.C.
Mr. Malherbe (C.O.)

from
J.E.S.
Mr. Beith

apud 11/26
NA Dept. Inst

B June 12

+ O
OUT FILE

Immediate

16 pp 1
Foreign Office SW1,
16 June 1947,
48

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Costa Rican Consul-General in London, forwarding a protest by the master of the S.S. Bolony Trader against the detention of this ship in Gibraltar.

I should be grateful for your views on the reply to be returned to this letter. In particular I should ~~particularly~~ like your ~~guidance~~ ~~in what terms to~~ ~~you consider that~~ ~~we should~~ refer to the Ships (Detention) Ordinance 1947 ~~in~~ ~~reference~~ but we should like to know in what

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13555) Wt. 48698-114 200m 2/47 G.S.S.L. Gp. 600

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

What terms you think we
should do so.

PP
Vij
2/15/6

48A

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th June, 1947.

(E 4991/84/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.

IMMEDIATE.

49

Dear Higham

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Costa Rican Consul-General in London, forwarding a protest from the master of the S.S. "Colony Trader" against the detention of this ship in Gibraltar.

I should be grateful for your views on the reply to be returned to this letter. I suppose that we should refer to the Ships (Detention) Ordinance, 1947, but we should like to know in what terms you think we should do so.

Yours ever

(sgd) (J.G.S. Beith)

J. D. Higham
~~W.A.C. Mathieson, Esq.,~~
Colonial Office.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E4991/84/31

J.E.C.

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

~~Draft~~

To COSTA RICAN
Consular General
London

~~SECRET~~

Foreign Office, 19
20 June 1947,

50

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 9th June enclosing a copy of a protest from the master of the s.s. "Solway Trader" against the detention of that vessel at Gibraltar.

This question has been taken up with the competent Departments and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

J.P.
19/5

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1991/84/31.

OUT FILE

51

S.W.1.

20th June, 1947

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of the 9th June enclosing a copy of a protest from the master of the S.S. "Colony Trader" against the detention of this vessel at Gibraltar.

2. This question has been taken up with the competent Departments and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

(sgd) C.W. Baxter

John C. Eggers, Esq.,
Costa Rican Consulate-General,
95 Gresham Street,
E.C.2.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			
				2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

195-

1947

E

PALESTINE

E 5135

16 JUN

52

Registry Number } E 5135/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. *via M. (C) (C) (C)*

Dated *Rome*

Received in Registry } 1297.
12, June 1947
16 - -

Illegal Immigration, Publicity.

Refer Rome tel 1098, (E 4108/84/31)

Answers question of suitable publicity for Italy in light of #0 tel 1009.

Answers number of dangers, publicity campaign might mean H.H. (C) (C) (C).

Last Paper.

5105

(Minutes.)

References.

I think that the line taken by the Embassy at Rome in this telegram is very much in consonance with the views of the Information Policy Department. I understand that they are trying to place material both in the British and American press which can then be used by our Missions abroad for their publicity. We have already told Paris this in reply to an enquiry from them and the copy of that letter (E 4000) is on its way to Rome.

(Print.)

The answer to para. 3 of this telegram seems to me to be that the Embassy have discretion to use the information available to them about Jewish illegal immigration activities in order to encourage journalists to make a story which will be of use to us. Clearly much will depend on the reliability and affiliations of the individual journalist. We have already given Rome some guidance on this point (E 4000).

(How disposed of.)

8) I.P. Dist

at 5105

June 16

Tel) Rome 1499

11 July

As regards the possibility of inspiring a Times article, News Department will be able to tell us what the prospects are. As a matter of fact, I think we have sufficient information to provide quite a nice account of conditions in Italian refugee camps, clandestine immigration into Italy and illegal departures from the South. Information Policy Department and News Department are I believe in touch with M.I.5. in regard to the furnishing of such material.

Information Policy Dept *27/6*
News Department *first*
Italian Section *1/6*

(J.G.S. BEITH)
17th June, 1947.

(Action completed.)

R2/y

(Index)

[Handwritten signature]

9 apology for delay in circulating this paper.

Next Paper.

E 5185

30471 F.O.P.

Since the above minutes were written, there have appeared in the "Daily Mail" six articles

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

on ~~the~~ illegal immigration. (7th-12th July) 32A

The articles have also been published in the 'Continental Daily Mail' (8th-24th July) (cf. E.6330). These articles were, of course, based on authentic information, and News Dept has made what use it can of them ~~last~~ - particularly in L.P.S. transmissions of 9th and 14th July, which summarised the six articles. I attach copies of these transmissions. The general tone of the articles accords fairly well with Rome telegram No. 1297, and we will bear these considerations in mind in future. (I presume Rome is fully aware of the 'Daily Mail' articles - either through L.P.S. or the Continental D.M.)

House.
(P.FELLOWES) 17/7

Now see E6479

KRM
n/7
25/7

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

E 5135

16 Jun

53

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir. N. Charles,
No. 1297
12th June, 1947.

D: 8.0 p.m. 13th June, 1947

R: 11.50 p.m. 13th June, 1947

Repeated to Washington
Paris

A A A A

SECRET.

Quoted

My telegram No. 1098.

Jewish illegal immigration.

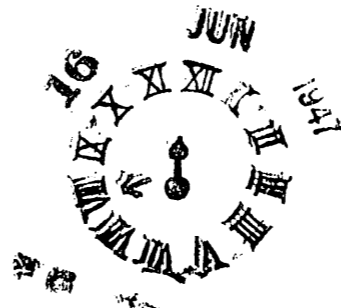
We have been giving detailed consideration to the question of suitable publicity for Italy in the light of your telegram 1069 and diplomatic programme in London press service of June 10th.

2. We feel that while the two telegrams under reference provide us with useful talking points they do not in themselves contain typical factual information of Zionists support for terrorism and illegal immigration which would enable the press to build up a case against the promoting of this traffic.

3. As you are aware we have abundant detailed material but I am not clear from paragraph 5 of your telegram 426 to Angera to what extent we can properly disclose this evidence to journalists and encourage them to investigate for themselves Zionist activities. Apart from this any publicity campaign launched here might run us into a number of dangers.

4. Firstly we should risk falling foul of Italian Government whose weakness and inefficiency would inevitably emerge from any form of publicity. We might thus prejudice our chance of getting even such cooperation as has hitherto been forthcoming. Secondly in disclosing evidence much of which would inevitably implicate U.N.R.R.A and A.J.D.C. if only by inference we should be treading on highly dangerous ground. In spite of all denials by U.N.R.R.A officials

/of



1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

of [grp undec.], the contribution which these two organisations make in practice is open talk and we are bound to be questioned (c.f. your telegram No.1164 and my telegram No.1282).
 UE. 4E 4442/4442/

5. Both of these dangers would be lessened if as originally suggested in my telegram No.1098 paragraph 4 publicity campaign could be launched in London. The Italian Government which would resent this Embassy's initiating the campaign would find it much more difficult to object to us following up enquiries from the Press respecting [grp. omitted] in London while you rather than we would be better able to judge how far it is safe or desirable to implicate U.N.R.R.A or A.J.D.C.

6. Would you therefore consider the possibility of persuading the Times to publish a turnover article about Jewish illegal immigration with particular reference to Italy as at present perhaps the worst centre of the traffic. Such an article should immediately provoke local comment which we ought to be able to work up into an effective anti Zionist Campaign. We suggest the "Times" because it seems to us important that initial publicity should be objective rather than sensational.

7. If you think proposal is practicable I venture to suggest that so far as Italy is concerned the Article should be:

(A) Highly factual. His Majesty's Government's attitude is generally known here but statements unsupported by evidence do not provoke much sympathy. We could of course provide you with material of the type required if necessary.

(B) It should not be too hard on the Italian Government. The best line from our point of view would be that the Italian Government were anxious to stop the traffic and had been helpful in various instances but there remained much that they could do and which it was hoped they would do under the new régime of I.R.O.

(C) Immigrants should be regarded as dupes who almost deserve our sympathy (see your telegram 426 to Angora paragraph 2 and paragraph 4) and main attack must be concentrated on Zionists in the United States and elsewhere who are abusing the idea of hospitality to refugees.

/(D)

1	
2	
3	1
4	
5	2
6	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

(D) Jewish agency and Zionist organisers of traffic are deliberately flouting authority of U.N.O.

8. My Information Secretary has received request for assistance in writing up Zionist activities in this country from both Italian and British journalists which show the degree of interest on the subject. I have however told him to hold back until we have received answer to this telegram.

Please repeat to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 252 and 114 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington and Paris].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

Registry
No. E5135/84/31
J.E.C.

OUT FILE

56

13/7

Despatched

10 55 a.m.

Draft.

ROME

RESTRICTED

Telegram.

No. ~~1499~~

Date July 11th

Your telegram no. 1297 [of
12th June: Jewish illegal immigration]

Series of 6 articles in "DAILY
MAIL" about Jewish illegal immigration
started on Monday 7th July and
The "TIMES" clip - sheets are being
sent to you.

CODE R

Distribution:

Departmental No. 1

[Signature]
11/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E5135/84/31

Code R

OUT FILE
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

57

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 1499

D. 10.55 a.m. 13th July, 1947.

11th July, 1947.

RESTRICTED

MMM

Your telegram No. 1297 [of 12th June: Jewish illegal immigration].

Series of 6 articles in "Daily Mail" about Jewish illegal immigration started on Monday, 7th July, and clip-sheets are being sent to you.

1	
2	
1	
3	
4	
5	
2	
6	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



Central Office of Information

58

OVERSEAS PRESS SERVICES

SERVICE

DATE

TRANSMISSION

LONDON PRESS

NINTH JULY

FIVE

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMME stop Memorandum on Administration of Palestine under Mandate recently handed to United Nations Fact Finding Committee and full text of which has now been received in London demonstrates how principal task of Palestine Govt during past twentyseven years has been holding of balance between twin obligations imposed by mandate para

Twofold duty imposed by Mandate is to promote establishment of National Home for Jewish People in Palestine and administer Palestine in conformity with interests of population as whole of whom Arabs form great majority para

In no field has it been more difficult for Palestine Govt to hold balance than in that of immigration which has been cause of most radical antagonism between Arabs Jews para

It was recognised that Jewish immigration was essential to economic development of National Home but it was obvious that unrestricted Jewish immigration could be prejudicial to interests of population as whole para

Palestine immigration policy was reviewed in White Paper of nineteen thirtynine and it was decided to be expedient to restrict immigration to total of seventyfive thousand Jews over five year period ending May nineteen fortyfour which was later extended to December nineteen fortyfive to permit completion of seventyfive thousand quota stop Since then Jewish immigration has been allowed at rate of fifteen hundred monthly stop Jewish population in Palestine has increased from eightyfour thousand in nineteen twentytwo year when Mandate was approved by Council League Nations to some sixtwofive thousand today which is about one third of total population of Palestine para

While Arab community has consistently opposed Jewish immigration fearing economic eclipse followed by political domination comma Zionists notably since adoption of Biltmore programme in nineteen fortytwo of unrestricted immigration and establishment of Jewish Commonwealth have set themselves task of circumventing immigration restrictions by every possible means para

p. t. o.

LONDON PRESS SERVICE AND REGIONAL SERVICES: WELBECK 4420, EXT. 736 (Inquiries and Distribution)

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

58A

This has led to vast organisation of illegal immigration traffic of which much has been written and of which there is still more to be revealed but which continues para

Daily Mail is at present publishing series of articles on illegal immigration racket compiled by investigator whose mission comma it is stated comma has taken him to Newyork Paris Cairo and who had drawn information from authentic sources stop These articles throw crude light on unscrupulous intrigues of organisers and untold miseries of victims para

Daily Mail investigator first deals with collection of funds to finance illegal immigration through appeals appearing as full page advortisements in American press stop He shows that only small fraction of dollars subscribed notably by poor Jews of Newyork tenements is actually devoted to its ostensible purpose stop Advertisements say it costs two fifty dollars to move one concentration camp victim from Europe to Palestine stop But Daily Mail investigator learned that fifty dollars of every two fifty goes straight to secret funds of terrorist organisation Irgun Zvai Leumi and much of remainder is pocketed by middlemen stop Thus gullible donors to these socalled charity appeals are giving money to get Jews illegally into Palestine but they are in fact not so much getting Jews into Palestine as helping Jewish terrorists blow up bridges and shoot eighteen year old British soldiers in back para

It is pointed out that American taxpayers are unwittingly subsidising this racket because donations to quote charitable appeals unquote are tax free para

Next Daily Mail investigator explains how money devoted to financing illegal immigration as distinct from terrorism is used by racketeers to buy old ships all over world sail than to Mediterranean often with legal cargoes comma there discharge crews and place on board Jewish crews or gangs of desperadoes ready to sail any ship at a price however unseaworthy however overcrowded para

Among twentyfive ships which reached Palestine waters dash only to be intercepted by Royal Navy dash during past year Daily Mail investigator finds that many flew flag of Panama or Honduras comma two countries which do not subscribe to International Load Line Convention which lays down safety rules for loading stop In consequence racketeers can cram these ships with human cargoes far beyond safety margin without regard for passengers or fear of law para

p.t.o.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

Thus quote Akbel unquote of three hundred tons arrived in Palestine waters last year with eleven hundred Jews and bubonic plague stop quote Athina unquote was so rotten that she sank on way stop R.F dropped food to her starving passengers awaiting rescue from rocky island stop They were eventually picked up by Royal Navy para

Of monthly legal immigration quota of fifteen hundred seven fifty are drawn from those interned in Cyprus after failing to land illegally in Palestine stop In this way half legal quota is taken by people who have forced their way to front of queue ahead of Jewish families whose undisputed claim has obtained them legal visa for entry into Palestine para

Daily Mail investigator proceeds to describe process by which illegal immigrants are induced to risk perilous journey from Central Europe to seaboard and thence across Mediterranean in hellships para

He says they are victims of highly efficient propaganda machine of Hagana comma militant organ of Jewish Agency stop Hagana agents are to be found in all main centres in Europe stop Their aim is get as many people as possible into Palestine stop They choose young strong men and women comma children and pregnant mothers as best material with which to build future Jewish State stop They work on these peoples fears comma paint pictures of coming pogroms and declare that for them it is case of Palestine or die para

Immigrants so beguiled set out at first in thin trickles from towns and villages or camps all over Europe stop They converge into few main streams making for Sweden comma South France comma Delmatia or heel of Italy where they are picked up by hell ships para

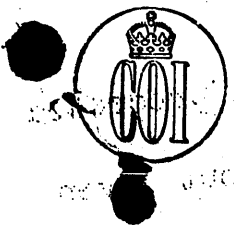
To get thus far they are beset with desperate adventures stop There is for example secret crossing of Polish Czechoslovak frontier at dead of night stop Many of these Jews carry large sums of money stop They are often robbed by bandits stop Some have been killed stop But adds Daily Mail investigator these hazards are nothing compared with what awaits them dash aboard hellships para

END DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMME LPS

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

Reference-
FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



OVERSEAS PRESS SERVICES

SERVICE	DATE	TRANSMISSION
LONDON PRESS	FOURTEENTH JULY	FIVE
DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMME para		

LPS Diplomatic Programme ninth July called attention to investigation which Daily Mail Correspondent has made into illegal Jewish immigration traffic stop Correspondent found that of dollars subscribed in answer to so-called Charity Appeals advertised in American press to get Jews bracket illegally bracket into Palestine small part is devoted to buying old quote coffin ships unquote for this purpose comma larger part is paid into secret funds of terrorist organisation Irgun Zvai Leumi but lions share sticks to pockets of ruthless rapacious racketeers para

Series of articles published by Daily Mail contains following description of typical Mediterranean voyage of one of coffin ships engaged in quote Jew running unquote para

Corvette quote Ulua unquote was bought last November from USA Navy by a Greek for eighteen thousand seven fifty pounds stop Greek resold her to Italian in Jew running racket for thirtyone thousand twofifty pounds para

Ulua has gross tonnage of eight zero eight and net tonnage of fouronetwo stop She was intercepted in Palestine waters by Royal Navy twentyeighth February of this year with thirteen hundred and ninetyeight men women children on board para

What human cargo of some fourteen hundred in ship of fourhundred net tons means can best realised by comparison for example with liner Queen Elizabeth para

Queen Elizabeth normally carries twothousand threehundred fifteen passengers stop If she were packed with people to same density as those fourteenhundred were crammed on board Ulua she would carry onehundred and fortyseven thousand on one voyage para

On one trip during war when Queen Elizabeth was serving as army transport she carried fifteen thousand seven hundred soldiers stop They were so closely packed that they could not all eat or sleep at same time stop Yet each man had nearly ten times as much room as one passenger in Ulua in voyage which lasted eight weeks in stinking suffocating conditions para

When Ulua entered illegal immigrant trade her name was changed to Haim Arlossoroff stop Under this name she embarked some sixhundred Jewish men women children at

p. t. o.

LONDON PRESS SERVICE AND REGIONAL SERVICES: WELBECK 4420, EXT. 736 (Inquiries and Distribution)

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
 Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

68A

Trelleborg Sweden twentyfourth January stop She put in at Havre and then proceeded to gulf of Taranto in extreme south of Italy stop There she picked up about seven hundred more Jews from beach para

As Ulua neared Palestine waters passengers were kept below deck stop Hot oil hose was prepared for reception of British boarding party and nuts and bolts piled on deck as ammunition stop Hagana agents had told Jews before they sailed for Palestine that they would be machine gunned by British on arrival para

Finally with no food left and water desperately short Ulua was spotted by British aircraft stop Soon after two British destroyers came alongside stop Voyage was over stop Deluded Jews did not set foot in Palestine but comma as Daily Mail investigator remarks comma profits of racketeers responsible were safe somewhere in background para

Daily Mail Correspondent chose voyage of Ulua for recital not because it was exceptional but because it was typical stop Ulua was in fact one of better class coffin ships stop She is modern whereas many are old tubs para

Daily Mail Correspondent reports description given him by British Army noncommissioned officer charged with receiving immigrants who are being transhipped to Cyprus dash description of small boat filled with Jews which was intercepted and escorted into Haifa harbour para

Deck of this small boat was so crowded that it seemed as if some of people must fall into water stop Men women children babes in arms born on voyage and women about to give premature birth to children owing to their hardships comma they had been twentytwo days at sea in this floating quote slum unquote stop Many were in rags stop Some were almost naked stop There were among them hystericals comma fanatics and worse stop There was fever and smallpox on board para

Finally what of conditions in Palestine comma El Dorado to get to which miserable dupes of Jew running racketeers go through hell query It was pointed out to Daily Mail correspondent by experienced observer of Middle East who has recently visited Palestine that by tragic paradox the very evil which so many Jews went to Palestine to escape has taken root in Palestine itself para

Bands of Jewish youth march along roads in shorts with satchels on their backs singing patriotic songs displaying all arrogance of race stop Older Jews look on with dismay stop And then the children stop Their parents have lost control of them stop They can only speak Hebrew in which they are taught to shriek parrot like slogans stop Every Jewish child this observer saw between ages of six and sixteen looked at him with unconcealed hate stop This experienced observer summed up his impression of this youthful vision in phrase dash Fascism has come to Palestine para

END DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMME LPS

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

190

E

61

E 5068
13 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 5068/84/31

FROM

Chancery

No.

Washington

Dated

9/65/1/47

Received in Registry

6 June 1947
13

Legal Immigrant Ships
Re Washington letter 9/124/1-1/47
(E 4326/84/31) re applications from various firms and individuals for British approval for passport & tonnage registry for ships under their control. Forwarded list of further applications.

Last Paper.

4991

(Minutes.)

copy M.F. 5) usual names
G. J. names
J. B. (S.E. CASE)
13/6

References.

AP 17/6
NA Dept. Satisfactory
13 June 47

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Robertson M. 15
Higham. B.O.
June 16

(Action completed.)

J. B. 17/6

(Index)

J. B. 17/6

Next Paper.

5069

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

E 62

E 5068
13 JUN

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

6th June 1947

SECRET

Ref: G165/ /47

Dear Department,

E4326/84/31

Please refer to our letter G124/-/47 (now numbered G165/3/47) of the 16th May about applications from various firms and individuals for British approval for permanent Honduranian registry for ships under their control.

Since writing this we have had a number of further applications, all of which have been discussed with the Shipping Attache and with the local Security Service Representative who has reported all of these ships to his head office.

These ships are:

1. CITY OF ATHENS. 15,000 tons; owned by the Compagnia de Navegacion de Honduras; run by the American Mediterranean Steamship Line; agents, Gratsos Bros. She will carry passengers and cargo between Athens, Genoa and New York. Approval given.
2. MITCHELL A. PALMER
REBECCA BOONE
DOLLY MADISON

Liberty ships of 7191 tons; owned by the Honduras Steamship Company; agents Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company of Jacksonville, Fla. The first is under charter to Lamport & Holt for the South America trade. The other two are under charter to the French

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

/Government

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Government for the carriage of coal from U.S. ports to France. A written undertaking was given by the Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company that these ships would not be used in the Mediterranean unless the French Government required that the coal should be unloaded in a French Mediterranean port rather than, as expected, at an English Channel port. The firm undertook to keep the Embassy informed of their future plans for these ships. Approval given.

3. The FLORESTA. See correspondence ending with Foreign Office telegram No.5240 of 29th May. Approval given.

4. The rail ferry boats GRAND HAVEN and HENRY M. FLAGLER operated by the West India Fruit & Steamship Company between West Palm Beach and Havana. Approval given.

5. Ex U.S. Naval vessel LCI-651 of 400 tons gross; owned by the Caribbean Shipping Company, who have stated in writing that she is being converted to carry fruit and general cargo in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean areas. Their letter contains an assurance that the vessels will not be used in any illicit traffic or outside the area specified. Approval given.

6. The WIALI (ex Naval XYF-49) and the ex Naval Yacht MARNELL, not yet renamed. Gross tonnages 261 and 254 respectively. They are owned by the West Indies America Line Inc. and are stated to be destined for general cargo trade in the Caribbean. They will be based at Tampa and will travel to Cuba and Jamaica. The owners have not yet decided what registry these two ships are to have, but will probably choose either Panamanian or Honduranian. The Shipping Attache is making enquiries about these vessels and a decision has not yet been taken.

7. Motor vessel FIFTY-TWO MILES (ex U.S. Naval Vessel SC-689);

Motor vessel ARAWAK II (ex Naval Vessel PSC-1381);

/and

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	
Reference: FO 371 / 61844					
COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON					

b4

and the privately owned YMS-108 (ex U.S. Naval Vessel not yet renamed).

They are owned by the Harrisville Combing Mills Inc. of Rhode Island. The first two are stated to be in use for the transportation of supplies from Florida to a dairy and poultry farm owned by Eleuthera Ltd. at Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera, Bahamas, a Bahaman corporation whose stock is owned by the Harrisville Combing Mills Inc. They will also be used, it is stated, as will also the YMS-108, for the transportation of the produce of the farm to Nassau. The Governor of the Bahamas has written to the Embassy to say that he believes Mr. Austin T. Levy, President of the Harrisville Combing Mills Inc., to be a person of the highest integrity.

The Security Service Representative has been informed by his head office that there is no adverse information concerning this firm or the ships. We are awaiting a report on the firm from the Consulate-General in Boston and for some further details and a guarantee about their future use from the Vice-Consulate at Jacksonville. Approval has therefore not yet been given.

8. S.S. CORTES
GUAYAQUIL
ELISA

Refrigerated ships of about 1000 tons; operated by the Tropical Fruit Company of Guayaquil between the ports of New Orleans, La., and Guayaquil. These ships are stated to be for exclusive use in the importation of bananas. H.M. Consul-General in New Orleans has been asked to ascertain whether the ships are what they are stated to be and to obtain an assurance from the New Orleans branch of the firm that they will not be used outside the western hemisphere. Approval has not yet been given.

/In

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

In the cases where approval has already been given, the Honduranian Ambassador in Washington has been informed of the fact by telephone and the Consular Officer in charge of the area from which the application was made has been instructed to inform the applicant by telephone that this has been done.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

sa

1	2	3	4	5	6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

191

E

E 5069 66
13 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E5069/84/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

110001

Dated

14/1

Received in Registry

3 June 1947
13 - -

Illegal Immigration - Keys
Reps. enclosed letter (275-114/47) (E5069/84/31)
Enclose translation of note Verbale 354
from My Foreign Affairs 27/1/47. Agreeing
to Embassy request that local authorities
facilitate for ship engaged in illegal
immigration traffic - should be denied.

Last Paper.

5068

(Minutes.)

References.

Good - we appreciate
this action by the Spanish
Govt.

(Print.)

Western Dept.
R.K.S.
16/6

copy to usual
Cath. off. names

JB true 14

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham. B.O.
Overred. Bob
off.
Sent 16

(Action completed.)

G.P. 1/16

(Index.)

1/16
5/1/48

Next Paper.

E5090

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

141 (275/21/47)

HIS Majesty's Charge at Madrid
d'Affaires H.M.P.S.S.F.A.
presents his compliments to
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British.....Embassy,.....
.....Madrid.....

E 5069

3rd June, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Madrid letter to Eastern Department of May
22nd, 1947 (275/14/47)
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Translation of Note Verbale No. 354 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the 27th May, 1947.	Coal bunkering facilities for ships engaged in illegal Jewish immigration to be denied.

67
E

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

TRANSLATION

68

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

No. 354

NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs present their compliments to H.B.M. Embassy and with regard to the Embassy's Note Verbale No. 475 of the 22nd instant requesting that any ship arriving at a Spanish port suspected of being involved in illegal Jewish immigration should not be given coal bunkering facilities, with special reference to the s.s. "COLONY TRADER;" have the honour to inform them that in accordance with the Embassy's wishes, the necessary instructions have been issued to the competent Spanish authorities as desired.

Madrid, 27th May, 1947.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

192

E

69

E 5090

1947

PALESTINE

14 JUN

Registry Number

E 5090/84/31

FROM

P. Stirling

No.

Lisbon

Dated

183/52/47

Received in Registry

7. June 1947

14

S.S. PADUCAH

Reps F.O. tel 321 (E 4620/48/9) discusses question of delaying illegal immigrant ships. Asks for explanation as to how delays help H.M.G. re chm traffic, for use when making representations to Portuguese Govt.

Last Paper.

5069

References.

(Minutes.)

I submit draft reply *[Signature]* (C.F. & CABLE) 17/6

Rather a silly question

B.S. Beins
June 18

[Signature]
26/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Opt. W. Stirling
Embassy
Lisbon.
from W. Garrow.
(Restricted)
June 26

(Action completed.)

[Signature]
5/6/48

(Index)

[Signature]
5/6/48

Next Paper.

5092.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E 5090
14 JUN

183/32/47

Dear Peter,
~~Dear Garran,~~

SECRET

4620/48/5 sent

70
enter
PP
British Embassy,

LISBON.

7th June, 1947.

12/6

Your telegram No. 321 of the 3rd June about the S.S. "Paducah".

You will have received as our telegram No. 35 *4918/48/5 sent* Saving a repeat of your telegram to the Consul at Ponta Delgada in the Azores, asking him to do what he could to obstruct or delay the "Paducah's" voyage. He will of course help to the best of his ability, but Fayal is nearly 200 miles by sea from Ponta Delgada and inter-island communications of every kind are bad.

4822/48117
4214/84
DEPT I hope you will agree to our not making an official approach to the Portuguese Government. As you know (see inter alia our despatch no. 117 of the 2nd June and Robin Hooper's Top Secret letter no. M.S.364/3/47 of the 19th April to John Beith), the Portuguese are not enthusiastic about the idea of stretching their authority to delay these ships, which they regard as pointless and likely to cause them trouble. They would be unlikely to take any effective action in this case and we would prefer on the whole to save our fire for cases in which we have a reasonable chance of getting them to do something.

(3013/48/21) sent

In your despatch no.134 of the 10th May, you told us that "even a short delay is of assistance to H.M.G. though of course the longer a vessel can be immobilised the better". It would be very helpful to us both in making representations to the Portuguese Government and also in impressing on Consuls the importance and urgency of the action which from time to time we have to instruct them to take, if you could give us an explanation which we could pass on of just how these delays help.

8756/48/5 sent

One final point -- In your telegram no. 308 you instructed us to ask the Portuguese Government to deny bunkers to suspect ships. Unless you tell us to the contrary, we do not intend to communicate the whole list of suspects to the Portuguese authorities, who would conveniently forget about it, but to make representations as cases arise.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Stirling

I.P. Garran, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Registry 3
No. E 5090/84/81

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
~~Confidential~~
Restricted.
~~Open~~

I.P.G.

Restricted

FOREIGN OFFICE,

26 June, 1947.

200
71

Draft.

Mr. Stirling,
H.M. Embassy,
Lisbon.

from
Mr. Garran.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Will you please refer to your letter 183/132/47 of 7th June in which you asked for guidance on the way in which it helps H.M. Government to secure even a short delay in the movements of a ship engaged in the illegal immigration traffic.

All our information goes to show that the plans of the organisation behind the Jewish illegal immigration racket are ^{fairly} very carefully laid. ^{a large proportion, at any rate of} The prospective illegal immigrants ^{are brought forward} ^(from Central Europe) according to a definite time table and passed from camp to camp until they reach the coast to be embarked on a specific vessel. Every time a ship is delayed, the plans of the organisation are upset, their expenses are increased and they are faced with the problem of concealing, housing and feeding some hundreds of would-be passengers until another ship can be produced. For example, when the S.S. "President Warfield" had been delayed for a couple of weeks, several hundred Jews in Italy were informed that their journey had been indefinitely postponed. Anything which adds to the difficulties and inconveniences of this traffic helps to defer the intending passengers.

I entirely agree with your final para. It would be undesirable to give the Portuguese authorities copies of the whole list of suspect shipping. Immigration is, of course, one of the crucial issues in

the/

at end ✓

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

71A

the whole Palestine question. It is by greatly increased immigration that the Zionists hope ultimately to secure a Jewish majority in Palestine and it is a question on which the Arabs of Palestine and the other Arab countries feel ^{passionately} very strongly. H.M. Government, in their efforts to carry out their obligations to both Arabs and Jews under the Mandate allow controlled immigration at the rate of 1,500 per month into Palestine but they feel bound to resist by all means at their disposal the attempts of Zionist elements to organise unauthorised immigration beyond that figure. Particularly at the present moment, while the matter is sub judice before the United Nations, it is the duty of H.M.G. to maintain the peace in Palestine and to prevent any action which might prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations. Illegal immigration, from which, incidentally, the Terrorists draw so many of their recruits, is the one issue before all others most likely to prejudice the position.

An important practical consideration is, of course, that all illegal immigrants who through our interception in Palestine territorial waters and transfer to Cyprus for detention involve H.M. Govt. in considerable expense for their maintenance quite apart from the trouble that they cause.

RG
19/6

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

72

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

26th June, 1947.

(E 5090/84/31)

RESTRICTED

Will you please refer to your letter 183/132/47 of 7th June in which you asked for guidance on the way in which it helps His Majesty's Government to secure even a short delay in the movements of a ship engaged in the illegal immigration traffic.

All our information goes to show that the plans of the organisation behind the Jewish illegal immigration racket are fairly carefully laid. A large proportion, at any rate of the prospective illegal immigrants are brought forward from Central Europe according to a time table and passed from camp to camp until they reach the coast to be embarked on specific vessels. Every time a ship is delayed, the plans of the organisation are upset, their expenses are increased and they are faced with the problem of concealing, housing and feeding some hundreds of would-be passengers until another ship can be produced. For example, when the S.S. "President Warfield" had been delayed for a couple of weeks, several hundred Jews in Italy were informed that their journey had been indefinitely postponed. Anything which adds to the difficulties and inconveniences of this traffic helps to defer the intending passengers.

Immigration is, of course, one of the crucial issues in the whole Palestine question. It is by greatly increased immigration that the Zionists hope ultimately to secure a Jewish majority in Palestine and it is a question on which the Arabs of Palestine and the other Arab countries feel passionately strongly. His Majesty's Government, in their efforts to carry out their obligations to both Arabs and Jews under the Mandate allow controlled immigration at the rate of 1,500 per month into Palestine but they feel bound to resist by all means at their disposal the attempts of Zionist elements to organise unauthorised immigration beyond that figure. Particularly at the present moment, while the matter is sub judice before the United Nations, it is the duty of His Majesty's Government to maintain the peace in Palestine and to prevent any action which might prejudice the eventual decision of the United Nations. Illegal immigration, from which, incidentally, the Terrorists draw so many of their recruits, is the one issue before all others most likely to prejudice the position.

An important practical consideration is, of course, that all illegal immigrants who through our interception in Palestine territorial waters and transfer to Cyprus for detention involve His Majesty's Government in considerable expense for their maintenance quite apart from the trouble that they cause.

I entirely agree with your final paragraph. It would be undesirable to give the Portuguese authorities copies of the whole list of suspect shipping.

(P. Garran)

C.N. Stirling, Esq., C.M.G.,
Lisbon.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

143

E

73

E 5092

1947

PALESTINE

14 JUN

Registry Number

E5092/84/31

FROM

Commander Noble

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

11 June 1947
14 - -

*Palatial, Ex-Naval Vessels.
Commander Noble, asked Admiralty whether aware that Jewish terrorist have acquired ex Royal Naval craft for gun-running, immigration etc. Mr Dugdale. Is possible that craft has been used for illegal immigration by persons that bought ex Naval craft.*

Last Paper.

5090

(Minutes.)

JB June 16

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed)

J. C. M. 16/6

(Index.)

[Signature]
5/8/48

Next Paper.

5705

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

ER-1111

K 74

Parliamentary Question

* 5. Commander Noble,—To ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, whether he is aware that Jewish terrorists have acquired ex-Royal naval craft for gun-running and immigrant-carrying purposes; and what steps are taken to prevent these craft being acquired for illegal purposes. [*Wednesday 11th June.*]

Ut.

Chelsea.

ANSWERED 11 JUN 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

(113/4)

Attach reply

JB June 11

Ex-Naval Vessels (Use)

82. Commander Noble asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that Jewish terrorists have acquired ex-Royal Navy craft for gun-running and immigrant-carrying purposes; and what steps are taken to prevent these craft being acquired for illegal purposes.

Mr. Dugdale: It is possible that certain firms which have in the past bought ex-Naval vessels may be concerned in carrying illegal immigrants—though not so far as I know in gun-running. No ex-Royal Navy ships are being or have been used by them for this purpose. I may add that no ex-Naval ships are now permitted to be sold to foreign firms.

E 5092
14 JUN

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

E
75

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION.

Ex-Naval Vessels (Use)

82. **Commander Noble** asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that Jewish terrorists have acquired ex-Royal Navy craft for gun-running and immigrant-carrying purposes; and what steps are taken to prevent these craft being acquired for illegal purposes.

Mr. Dugdale: It is possible that certain firms which have in the past bought ex-Naval vessels may be concerned in carrying illegal immigrants—though not so far as I know in gun-running. No ex-Royal Navy ships are being or have been used by them for this purpose. I may add that no ex-Naval ships are now permitted to be sold to foreign firms.

11 JUN 1971

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

76

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *FO*

Class *371*

Piece *61844*

Following document(s) retained in the
Department of origin under Section 3 (4)
of the Public Records Act, 1958

E5105/84/31

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO

371

61844

196

E

77

1947

PALESTINE

E 5185
JUN

Registry Number } E 5185/84/71
FROM }
Compania
No. } Abantima
Dated } Geopenios
Received in Registry } S.A
17 Jan 1947
17

S. Lucia:

Confirm that ship "Lucia" owned by the boys, will only be used for regular unladen trade for passengers and freight, and will not in any way be used for illegal immigration to Palestine.

Last Paper.

5/35

References.

4/20/47

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham, P.O.
Cawley, Robert
Dodd's Admly
W. Graham, as/Exec
Robertson, M.I.S.
20 June

Dfc) Mr. Higham, P.O.,
from Mr. Reich.
June 24.

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 5221

(Minutes.)

This letter was discussed at the meeting of the Working Party on Illegal Immigration on the 19th June, when it was agreed that legal advice was required on the following questions:

- 1/ Is this letter legally binding and could legal action be taken against the company or its individual directors, if these undertakings were broken?
- 2/ If not, would it be possible to draw up a contract on which effective legal action could be taken?

Please see also E 5221

Mr. Evans Just

[Signature]
(J. E. CADBLE)
20/6

D. S. [Signature]
June 20

In my opinion if we take action on the final paragraph of the letter it might form a binding agreement but this would depend on whether the signatories of the letter have power to bind the company, as its directors, in this way, and whether they have this power could only be ascertained by examining the company's articles of association. Moreover even if the agreement is binding on the company it might be very difficult to estimate damages for its breach.

Wt. 24772/717 17865 10/36 F.O.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: FO 371 / 61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

From the point of view of legal proceedings in case of a breach of the undertaking it would be more satisfactory to obtain from these gentlemen a bond in which they would bind themselves personally, jointly and severally, to the payment of a fixed sum of money by way of liquidated damages if they broke their undertaking. There would be no objection to their entering into such a bond for the company if they satisfied us that they were empowered to do so.

N.V. Evans

N.V. J. EVANS

20 June 1947

Mr. Evans and I saw Squadron Leader Fleming and Mr. Landy on 23rd June at the Foreign Office. Mr. Evans explained that the letter within was not necessarily as binding as we might wish, and suggested a bond to be given by each of the five partners. Messrs. Fleming and Landy did not welcome this suggestion, and the former in particular said he would prefer to resign from the business rather than be involved in a guarantee of this kind. Finally, they both asked us to produce a form of words as soon as possible so that they could consider it.

2. Mr. Evans has now prepared the attached bond for consideration by the Illegal Immigration Committee tomorrow. If the Committee agree that we should exact a bond of this kind, we shall have to communicate it to the Company. It does not, however, look as if the latter would be willing to sign a bond like this.

3. I shall suggest that the Committee consider also what our attitude should be if the partners refuse to give a bond as required. If we, for our part, refuse to withdraw our objections to Panamanian registration and to the departure of the ship except on receipt of a bond, the owners may try to raise the matter in parliament, or even to take legal action against us for the expenses they will be involved in by keeping the ship inactive. I am sending a copy of the bond to Messrs. Higham and Evershed.

J.G.S. Beith
(J.G.S. Beith).

24th June, 1947.

Now see conclusions of Official Committee at Cr. ^{Flag}. I have told Mr Landy, who rang me up today, that dept. no longer thought a bond to be a useful method of dealing with the problems and

77A

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY

(E5185/84/31)

79

COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, S.A.,
(Registered in Panama)

STEAMSHIP OWNERS AND SHIPBROKERS.

General Agents:

HL/FL

17th June, 1947.

TILL COMPANY LTD.

Head Office:
52, Nach. Benjamin Str.
P.O.B.550. Phone 5487.
Cables: TILL, Tel Aviv.
TEL AVIV, (Palestine)

Eastern Branch,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Dear Sirs,

Branches:

Jerusalem and Haifa.

Agents In U.K. :
TILL CO. (England) LTD.
78, New Oxford Str.,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Phones: MUSEum 9351-2

As requested by you to the Directors of our Company at yesterday's meeting with your Mr. Beith, we hereby desire to confirm and undertake that the ship known as s.s. "Lucia" owned by our Company, will only be used for regular authorised trade, for passengers and freight, and will not in any way be used for illegal immigration to Palestine.

We also undertake to keep you informed should we at any time propose selling this ship.

/In

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

79A

In view of the foregoing, would you kindly write the Panamanian Consul, correcting the impression previously given.

Yours faithfully,
COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, S.A.

Directors.

Sir W.H.Thomas, Kt.K.B.E.

S/Ldr. E.L.Fleming, K.C., M.P.

Mr. W.N. Williams.

Mr. H. Landy

Mr. I. Beitely.

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:

FO 371 / 61844

COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, S.A.,

(REGISTERED IN PANAMA)

STEAMSHIP OWNERS AND SHIPBROKERS.

*Copies
Co
c/n. off.
my of transport
General Agents:*

HL/FL

17th June, 1947.

TILL COMPANY LTD.

Head Office:
52, Nach. Benjamin Str.
P.O.B. 550. Phone 5487.
Cables: TILL, Tel Aviv.
TEL AVIV, (Palestine)

Branches:
Jerusalem and Haifa.
Agents in U.K.:
TILL CO. (England) LTD.
78, New Oxford Str.,
LONDON, W.C.1.
Phones: MUSeum 9351-2.

Eastern Branch,
Foreign Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

E 5185
17 JUN

Dear Sirs,

As requested by you to the Directors of our Company at yesterday's meeting with your Mr. Beith, we hereby desire to confirm and undertake that the ship known as s.s. "Lucia" owned by our Company, will only be used for regular authorised trade, for passengers and freight, and will not in any way be used for illegal immigration to Palestine.

We also undertake to keep you informed should we at any time propose selling this ship.

In view of the foregoing, would you kindly write the Panamanian Consul, correcting the impression previously given.

Yours faithfully,
COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, S.A.

Directors.

Sir W.M.Thomas, Kt.K.B.E. *W.M. Thomas*
S/Ldr. E.L.Fleming, K.C.,MP. *E.L. Fleming*
Mr. W.N. Williams. *W.N. Williams*
Mr. H. Landy. *H. Landy*
Mr. I. Beitely. *I. Beitely*

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	1	1	1	1

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

81

BY THIS BOND we
of
bind ourselves jointly and severally to His Majesty's Government
for the payment to them of the sum of

Sealed with our seals this the day of

NOW THE ABOVE WRITTEN OBLIGATION is conditioned to be
void in case the ship known as SS. "LUCIA" at present owned
by the COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, S.A. steamship owners and
ship brokers, shall at all times hereafter when in the ownership
of the said COMPANIA MARITIMA GEOJUNIOR, be used only for lawful
trade for passengers and freight or other lawful purpose and shall
not in any way be used for the purposes of illegal immigration
into Palestine.

Signed, sealed and delivered

by the above named

10/-d
Stamp.

in the presence of

(Signatures, addresses and
occupations of two witnesses)

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

84

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group..... *F0*

Class *371*

Piece *61844*

Following document(s)*

~~retained in the Department of origin*~~
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E 5221/84/31

and closed until..... *1998*

*delete as necessary

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

Reference:

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

195

E

E 5222 85
18 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 5222/84/31.
FROM Sir J. Charles
Embassy.
No. Rome
Dated 237.
Received in Registry } 6 June 1947.
18

I.S. 'Anal'
Lyon 20 tel 1124 (E 4179/48/9.) Transmits
copy of letter to Secretary Gen of UN of
Foreign Affairs of June 6. Asking for
immediate enquiries to be made into the causes
of failure by the govt. which directly concerned
to detect the full scope of coal held by
'anal' in enabling for a week Palestine.

Last Paper.

5221

copies to: (Minutes.)
c.o. (Mr. Higham)
M.I. 5 (personal names)
binned/ Officers (bdr. involved)
18/6

References.

*copy
20/6*

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8/ digram. P.O.
Robertson. M.I. 5.
Covered, sub off.
✓ 25 June.*

(Action completed)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

5224

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

1	2	3	4	5	6

No.

237 ✓

SECRET

86

(325/117/47)

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

British Embassy,

Rome, June 6th, 1947.

Reference to previous despatch:

E 5222

18 JUN 1947

From Foreign Office: Telegram No. 1127 of 30th May 1947.
~~XTC~~

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter to Secretary-General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated June 6th 1947.	Illegal Jewish Immigration.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371

61844

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

87
KND

COPY.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

ROME.

June 6th 1947.

As you will recall, you informed me on the 20th May that the ship "ANAL" had been allowed to sail from Palermo, but that, as a result of instructions issued by the competent Ministry, her bunkers had previously been inspected, and that she had only been supplied with sufficient additional coal to reach Tunis.

2. It was therefore with the greatest surprise that I learnt that on the 31st May the "Anal" had arrived at Haifa in Palestine, without having put in at any intermediate port of call, and still carrying her complement of 375 illegal Jewish immigrants. Apparently, as a result of failure by the Italian port authorities to detect the full stocks of coal which she was already carrying, the ship succeeded in obtaining sufficient additional coal at Palermo to enable her to complete her journey to Palestine.

3. I cannot disguise from you the fact that this incident has been a shock to His Majesty's Government. Not only were the British authorities wrongly informed that the "Anal" could not reach Palestine without refuelling, but the supply of coal at Palermo granted to this ship, which was openly engaged in the illegal traffic of Jews, contributed directly to the arrival of a new contingent of illegal immigrants in Palestine, to the detriment of the situation there and the embarrassment of British interests.

4. I am of course fully aware that it was contrary to the policy of the Italian Government for the ship thus to have been enabled to reach Palestine, and I am confident that I can count on you to arrange for an immediate enquiry into the causes of failure by the port authorities concerned to take adequate action. At the same time I have been instructed to urge that every precaution be taken in future to ensure thorough inspection of the bunkers of suspect ships.

NOEL CHARLES.

1					
2					
3	1				
4					
5	2				
6					

Reference: **FO 371 / 61844**

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON